WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Tuar Board

1364. SHRI K.B. SHANAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to takeover the Tuar Board of Karnataka from the State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether it is not feasible for the Central Government to run Tuar Board satisfactorily on the lines of Coffee Board of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to take over the Tuar Board of Karnataka from the State Government. It does not appear necessary to set up a separate Tuar Board at Central level as most of the activities undertaken by Tuar Board of Karnataka are already covered under various ongoing schemes/programmes of Government of India.

Development of Jakhau Fishery Project

1365. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the proposal for the development of Jakhau Fishery Project is awaiting environment clearance from the Central Government since long;

(b) whether a comprehensive report on the escalation of cost of the project and a revised estimate were sent by the Government of Gujarat to the Central Government; and

(c) if so, the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir. The Central Government had in December, 1997 accorded clearance from environmental angle for construction of fishing harbour at Jakhau.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The revised cost estimate proposal with cost escalation from Rs. 1143.60 lakhs to Rs. 3483.90 lakhs has just been received from Government of Gujarat.

Share in global fruit and vegetable trade

1366. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the World Bank Report indicating that India produces 11 per cent of world's vegetables and 15 per cent of fruits, at 53-63

per cent of global prices, but our share in global fruit and vegetable trade is 1.7 per cent and 0.5 per cent, respectively;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this mis-match; and

(c) whether Government would be evolving some effective modalities, in consultation with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, so that our global trade share increases and thereby our farmers are benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major reasons affecting India's potential for exports include:-

1. Lack of awareness among farmers about producing good quality and safe produce.
2. Various non-tariff barriers imposed by importing countries, particularly, the developed countries.
3. Lack of proper cold chain and logistics facilities.
4. Poor post harvest infrastructure and lack of market information.
5. Lack of standards for farm and orchard maintenance including presence of pest and disease.

(c) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has taken several steps to enhance export of fruits and vegetables through participation in trade fair, information dissemination scheme for market, transport assistance and infrastructural development and setting up of Agri-Export Zone (AEZ) for various agricultural products. The Horticulture Division of the Ministry of Agriculture is working in close coordination with APEDA to keep in pace with the export demand of production of fruits and vegetables. The National Horticulture Mission (NHM) Scheme envisages for providing special impetus to promote export of horticulture produce through Agri-Export Zones (AEZs), for which there is potential global market. This aspect is kept in mind while approving the Annual Action Plan of the State Horticulture Missions.

Farm production in India *vis-a-vis* China

†1367. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in comparison to India, China is more advanced in farming;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.